

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of industry news, plus a full page from Medadvisor.

NSW pharmacy vax program site

NSW Health has developed a new webpage for the NSW Pharmacist Vaccination Program, designed to support NSW pharmacist immunisers by providing a single, centralised resource that brings together information on all aspects of the program in one place.

This includes how to become a pharmacist immuniser, which vaccines can be administered, and advice on how to order, manage and administer vaccines. Visit the site [HERE](#).

Artri Ajo joint support warning

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has warned consumers that Artri Ajo King tablets may pose a serious risk to health and should not be taken.

TGA Laboratory testing found that the tablets contained undeclared dexamethasone - a prescription-only drug - and diclofenac.

When taken either alone or in combination with other medicines, they can cause serious side effects.

Purchased online from overseas, the joint support supplement is not listed on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods and has not been assessed by the TGA for quality, safety or efficacy.

It is similar to the Artri King tablets that were tested by the TGA in 2024, which also contained undeclared dexamethasone and diclofenac.

Learn more [HERE](#).

GPs urge more team care

THE Australian Medical Association (AMA) is calling for \$425.5 million to remove the current cap on subsidy payments under the Workforce Incentive Program (WIP), to help boost employment of pharmacists, nurses and allied health staff in general practice settings.

In its 2026-27 pre-budget submission, the peak body stated the current cap unnecessarily limits the amount of support general practices can access to provide multidisciplinary care to patients.

"Removing the cap will help practices retain and grow multidisciplinary teams tailored to local health priorities and patient complexity," the submission noted.

"This is not only convenient for patients, but also ensures access to comprehensive and coordinated care as part of a patient-centred approach to healthcare delivery."

The proposal speaks to the AMA's concerns around fragmentation of patient care as they access treatment from pharmacies, urgent care clinics and hospital emergency departments, with patchy communication between the different bodies sometimes leading to poor patient outcomes.

It also complements another proposal to increase funding for after-hours general practice care.

"When patients access high-quality, team-based care through their regular general practice, they benefit from continuity, familiarity, and care that is personalised to their health needs."

Launching the submission at the National Press Club on



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Wed, AMA president Dr Danielle McMullen raised the issue of pharmacy prescribing in the context of fragmentation of care.

Describing it as "quick, cheap [and maybe] punter-friendly", Dr McMullen questioned its safety and success in terms of improving outcomes and access, pointing to a lack of quality evidence and an absence of adverse events reporting mechanisms.

MEANWHILE the AMA's colleagues at the Royal Australian College of GPs have criticised the NSW Government's expansion of pharmacist prescribing of hormonal contraceptives to allow initiation as well as resupply, in line with pharmacists in other states ([PD 15 Apr](#)).

Contending that the move followed "strong lobbying and significant donations from the pharmacy business owner's lobby", the RACGP labelled the initiative "lobbyist-led health policy".

"This sends a troubling message to women that expert medical advice can be ignored if it benefits donors to cut corners with our patients' health," RACGP Vice President Dr Ramya Raman said. *KB*

Patient loyalty

MEDADVISOR supports Australian pharmacies and pharmacists in enhancing patient engagement and delivering better-connected care - learn more on [page four](#).

NOT JUST FLU. THERE'S WHOOPING COUGH TOO

Ask about a
DOUBLE SHOT
Help prevent whooping cough as well as the flu!

1. Australian Government. Department of Health, Disability and Ageing. Australian Immunisation Handbook. Available at <https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au>. Accessed March 2026.
sanofi-aventis australia pty ltd trading as Sanofi. All rights reserved. ABN 31 008 558 807. Sydney, Australia. www.sanofi.com.au. MAT-AU-2600393 V1. Date of preparation: March 2026.

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No limit for RSV maternal vax

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has reminded pharmacists that the 36-week upper gestational age limit for Abrysvo eligibility under the NIP has been removed.

However, that upper limit is still recommended to ensure the infant is fully protected. Learn more [HERE](#).



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What do inclusive conversations look like?

THE 2026 Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) IPE Colloquium will take place in Canberra on 05 May, with the theme ‘Empowering voices: Educating health professionals for respectful and inclusive conversations’.

“This year’s theme speaks deeply to who we are as an organisation and what we believe the future of healthcare must look like,” said APC chair, Professor Sarah Roberts-Thomson.

“At its heart, this theme recognises that communication is not just a professional skill - it is a foundation of safe, person-centred care.

“It reminds us that the way we prepare future health professionals must evolve alongside the communities they serve,” she said.

Attendees will hear from diverse advocates, educators, researchers and speakers with lived experience as they equip future professionals with the skills and confidence to communicate inclusively across abilities, identities, cultures and experiences.

Professor Jennifer Smith-Merry, Australian Research Council laureate fellow from the University of Sydney, will be joining the speaker line-up.

According to Professor Smith-Merry, inclusive communication starts with communicating with a person to ask them about their communication needs, and trying to address them together.

“The key here is to be open and flexible to different approaches to communication, and not having all the answers but being able to be led by people with disability to understand their needs.

“Sometimes people with disabilities may find it difficult to communicate with you based on previous negative experiences with other health professionals, so try to understand that and acknowledge where that has been the case.”

Michael Quach, director of pharmacy for the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District, said inclusive communication is “slowing down, being curious and meeting people where they are”.

“It’s about asking rather than

assuming, using respectful language and adapting how we communicate to honour culture, identity, ability and lived experience.

“Barriers like time pressures, unconscious bias and fear of getting it wrong can get in the way.

“A simple tip is to lead with humility, acknowledge what we don’t know, ask open questions and genuinely listen feeling heard is often the most powerful form of care.”

Quach emphasised the importance of being conscious and intentional about language and assumptions about others.

“For trans and gender-diverse patients in particular, it looks like being asked - not assumed - about names, pronouns, and care needs, and feeling safe to correct a clinician without fear of embarrassment or dismissal.”

Queer pharmacist Deni Salmon concurred, saying that harm is often not overt, but comes from everyday moments: “Intake forms that don’t reflect identity, gendered language used by default, or clinicians feeling unsure and avoiding conversations altogether”.

To overcome this, Salmon suggested normalising affirming communication for everyone.

“Introducing yourself with your name and pronouns, using neutral language until guided otherwise, and asking simple questions - like ‘Is there anything about your identity or care that you’d like me to be aware of?’ - builds trust without singling anyone out, and can significantly improve patient safety and health outcomes.

“Inclusive communication isn’t about getting everything perfect - it’s about being willing to listen, learn, and do better in everyday clinical encounters.”

Griffith University lecturer Blayne Arnold and Dr Kerry Hall will provide insights into bringing First Nations ways of knowing, being and doing into health



professional education.

“Inclusive communication involves reflective, and relational practices that centre listening and respect, to establish shared understanding,” Arnold said.

“Barriers such as time pressures exist, where educators/clinicians will default to prioritise efficiency and completion of tasks, leaving little perceived time for deeper, relationship-based conversations.

“A potential solution is to reframe inclusive communication as core practice, not an ‘extra.’”

Arnold suggested open dialogues can be integrated into routine practices, improving understanding and trust as students and educators are able to share perspectives in an open, non-hierarchical way.

“This approach prioritises listening and respect and facilitates reflective, and relational practices to create shared understanding.”

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about IPE Colloquium and register. *KB*

New PBS listing for lung cancer

AUSTRALIANS diagnosed with ROS1-positive non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) now have subsidised access to a new targeted treatment, Augtyro (reprotectinib, BMS Australia), through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).


ROS1-positive NSCLC is a rare subset affecting only 1-2% of NSCLC patients, and compared to others with NSCLC people with ROS1 rearrangements, are younger and more likely to have never smoked.

The listing also highlights the growing role of molecular testing in lung cancer care, where identifying the specific genetic features of a person’s cancer allows clinicians to personalise treatment, rather than take a one-size-fits-all approach.

“We welcome the PBS listing of Augtyro as an additional treatment option for people with ROS1-positive NSCLC,” said Paige Preston from Lung Foundation Australia.

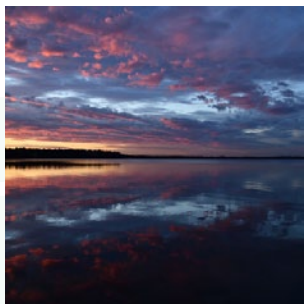
“For those affected by rare cancers, timely access to publicly funded treatments is especially important so that these communities are not left behind,” she added.

BMS ANZ GM Owen Smith said the PBS listing of Augtyro was an important milestone for the company and underscores its commitment to people living with rare lung cancer.



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Dispensary Corner

ARE your zombie cells killing you - and could taking them out help you live longer?

Scientists at UCLA have discovered a group of immune cells that build up in ageing tissues and increase the likelihood of fatty liver disease.

Senescent cells - often referred to as zombie cells - flood the tissue with inflammation and accumulate with age and increased cholesterol.

The scientists compared the buildup of these cells to a car breaking down on a highway - one of these zombie cells can cause an enormous disruption, creating a backlog of zombie cells which then congregate and wreak havoc.

The good news is that the effects of tissue damage and fatty liver disease could potentially be reversed through eliminating these cells with the drug ABT-263, which they tested on mice that were fed a high-cholesterol diet.

After taking the drug, the mice experienced a significant drop in liver size and body weight, while their livers turned from an unhealthy yellow-ish colour to a more healthy red colour.

The scientists pointed out the zombie cells may contribute to many conditions associated with ageing, ranging from fatty liver disease to atherosclerosis, Alzheimer's and cancer, which could potentially be treated or managed by targeting the cells.

Unfortunately ABT-263 is too toxic to use in humans, and the team is now trying to identify a similar safer drug.

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au

Panadol Children: now available in a new Tutti Frutti flavour

New Panadol Children Tutti Frutti flavour offers even more choice for parents and children. It features a smooth formula with microfine particles in a homogeneous suspension.¹ This formula helps to support ease of swallowing and administration.^{2-4†}

Panadol Children contains paracetamol, which helps relieve pain and reduce fever.⁵ It can begin to reduce fever within 15 minutes, supporting rapid relief when needed.⁶

RRP: \$25.70 (200 mL bottle: 5-12 years)

Suppliers: Contact your Haleon representative.

Website: [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

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Panadol Children contains paracetamol. For the temporary relief of pain. Reduces fever.

†Palatability, defined by organoleptic properties including taste and mouthfeel/texture can affect acceptability and ease of administration of medicines in children.

1. GSK Marvel Sedimentation Study on File 101009. 2. GSK In-vitro swallowability Study on file. 3. Nagtegaal MJ. *et al. Pharmacogenomics.* 2014;15(1):111-9.

4. EMA, 2013. Guideline on pharmaceutical development of medicines for paediatric use. EMA committee for medicinal products for human use (CHMP). Paediatric Committee (PDCO).

5. Australian Medicines Handbook Pty Ltd. Paracetamol monograph. Last modified by AMH January 2025. Accessed March 2026.

6. Temple AR *et al. Clin Ther.* 2013;35:1361-75.

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Hartley's Gripe Water



Hartley's Gripe Water is a natural blend of herbal ingredients including dill seed oil, peppermint oil, chamomile and coriander oil. These herbs have been used safely in commercial infant preparations for many years.

The product helps reduce the occurrence of excess intestinal wind and gas in infants, and helps relieve the symptoms of infant colic. It does not contain artificial sweeteners.

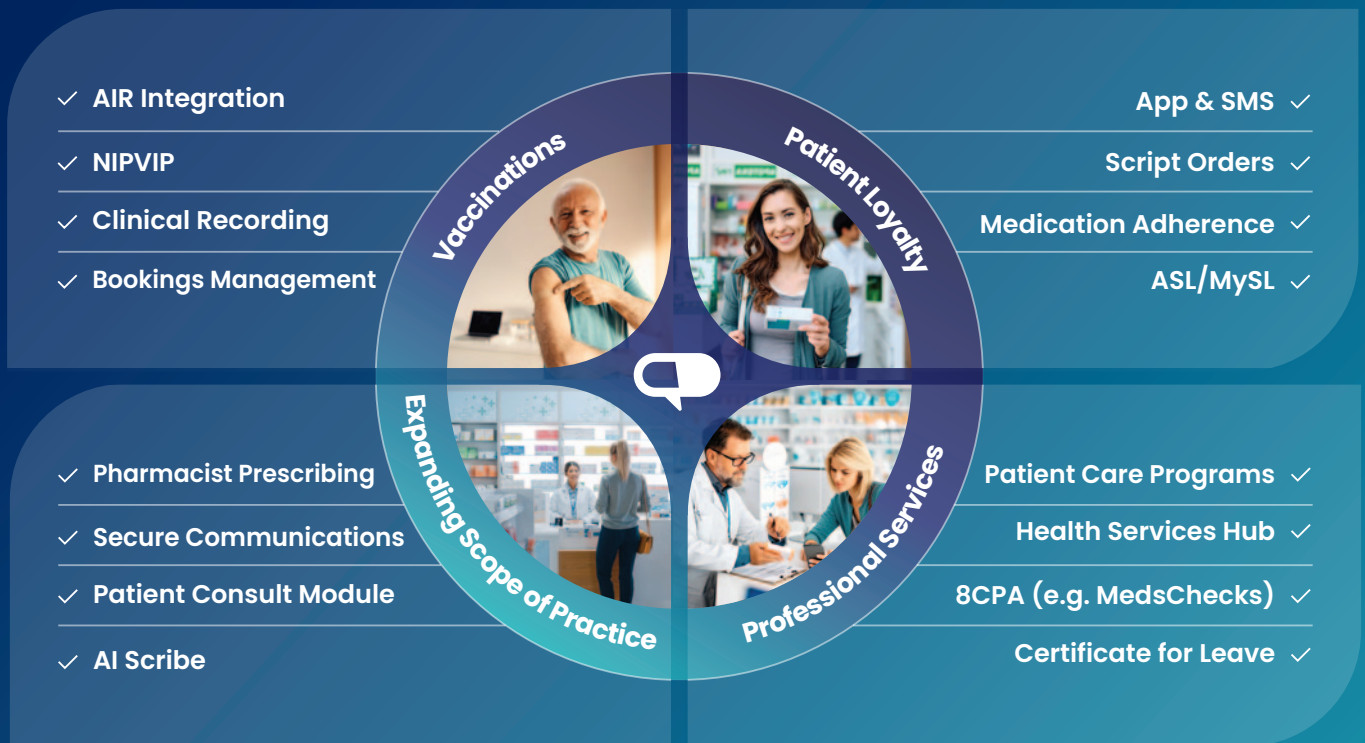
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